

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 1 - 0

Yeas: Edwards, Girod, Monroe, Starr, Beyer

Nays: Thomsen

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts from registration requirements those securities issued by renewable energy cooperative corporations to members of the cooperative corporations as evidence of membership, or to show members' respective interests in assets, reserves or patronage dividends. Becomes operative July 1, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Registration requirement can be a barrier to participation
- Effect of committee amendment
- Oregon's position in the solar energy market
- Relationship between dividends and patronage

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies definition of "renewable energy cooperative corporation" for purposes of ORS 59.025.

BACKGROUND: A renewable energy cooperative corporation is formed by an autonomous association of people to voluntarily meet their common need or desire to pool investments and benefits for renewable energy development. Like all cooperatives, they are generally identified by principles such as voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community. ORS chapter 62 specifies requirements governing organization and membership of cooperatives. Members of the cooperatives may be issued stock or certificates signifying that they are a member of the cooperative and, in some cases, their respective interests and entitlements as members of the cooperative.

Senate Bill 1520-A specifies that securities issued by renewable energy cooperative corporations to members of the cooperative are exempt from registration under ORS 59.049 and ORS 59.055 (registration as condition and offer for sale of securities).